1: Drew G-3 (1862-1872) 1875 AV1 Kashmir AV1

of hills, such as we have all along called the "Middle Mountains"; at Thanna we have reached to the foot of the slope of the Ratan Ridge itself. 133 487

In the march from Thanna to Baramgalla we go over the Ratan Pír.* It is a good steep pull to reach the summit, which is 8200 feet above the sea; there is hardly any depression in the ridge at that spot. On some of the slopes the mountain is thickly covered with forest, a forest of much variety and beauty. Box grows here largely; it is cut and sent to the towns, where it is mostly used for making combs. On the higher parts of the ridge one meets with numbers of the great black and grey monkey, called *langúr*. [36] [37]

From the Ratan Pír one looks north and north-eastward on to the Panjál Range, and obtains grand views of its mountains. The descent also gives beautiful prospects, both of near forest views and of the more distant hills. The road is rough and difficult; one's pony, that was useful for the ascent, had best be allowed to go down the hill without a rider.

Baramgalla, which is the halting-place, is in the valley of the stream that rises near the Pír Panjál, and with many others goes to form the Púnch River. It is shut in closely by spurs of the hills.

The next march, from Baramgalla to Poshiána, is along the bottom of the narrow valley, among the large rounded stones of

* In these hills the word *Pír* has come to be used more or less generally for Pass. The history of its acquirement of this meaning I conceive to be this. *Pír* in Persian means first, *old*, or *an old man*, and thence a saint or *fakír*. It is common for fakírs to establish themselves on Passes for the sake of contemplating the works of God and of receiving the alms of travellers; when any noted holy fakír died on a Pass, the place became sacred to his memory, and was often called after him, his title of *Pír* being prefixed; at last it became so common for every important Pass to have a name beginning with *Pír* that the word acquired the secondary meaning of Mountain Pass. 792 778 103

Ratan Pír must be called so after one Ratan, which is a man's name among the Hindús. As to Pír Panjál, the latter of the two words is applied to a great mountain ridge, at all events to the one we are coming to, I am not sure whether it is a general word for a range in any language. Pír Panjál now means simply the Pass of the Great Range. There was, however, at one time a fakír who lived on it and bore the title of Pír. Bernier, who crossed in Aurungzeb's time, says there was a hermit on the Pass who had resided there ever since Jahángír. Bernier wrote this in 1665. Jahángír reigned from 1605 to 1628; by this the hermit would have dwelt there thirty-seven years at least. I imagine it was from him that the Pass acquired the first word of its present name.